

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The claims have been amended to remove improper multiple dependencies. The pharmaceutical composition claims have been amended to include a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, based on the specification at page 52, lines 9-10. Other amendments have been made in conformance with U.S. practice.

Claims 9-14 have been amended so as to be solely dependent upon claim 7.

The objection that claims 9-14 are thus deemed to be overcome.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the term "has a bond at" means "is combined with".

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC 112 is thus deemed to be overcome.

The claims have been amended to delete the term "a prodrug thereof".

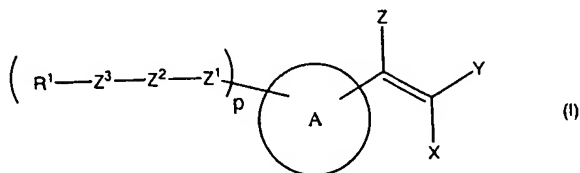
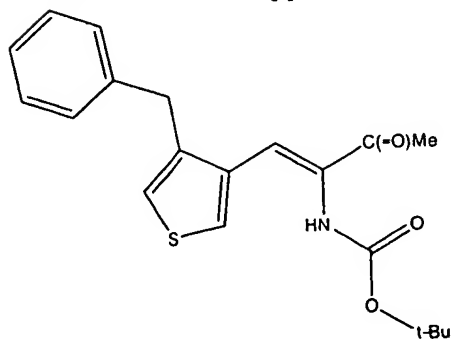
The rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 USC 112 is deemed to be overcome.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to delete the term "optionally substituted alkyl" in the definition of Z.

The rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Ogura et al. (EP 0 913 392) is thus deemed to be overcome.

Lastly, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by WO 99/06410 is respectfully traversed.

The chemical structure of the compound that the Examiner pointed out in the Office Action and the Applicant's compound (I) is shown below.



Claim 7 requires that the group of the formula $-C(Z)=C(X)Y$ substitute at an atom adjacent to a hetero atom in the ring (A). However in the reference compound the group corresponding to that formula does not substitute at an atom adjacent to the hetero atom on the ring corresponding to ring (A). Therefore, the compounds of claim 7 are novel and nonobvious over the reference compounds.

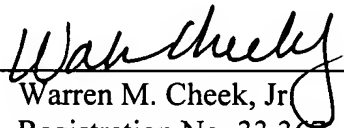
In view of the foregoing, this ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome.

Rejoinder of claims 17-23 which are dependent upon elected claims 7-14 is solicited.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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